

**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary  
Sanctuary Advisory Council**

**Meeting Highlights**

**March 22, 2006**

Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Ballroom  
1050 Schooner Drive · Ventura, CA

*Note: These meeting highlights capture only limited detail on meeting agenda items and related Advisory Council actions. Additional details will be provided after meeting notes are drafted, reviewed and approved by the Advisory Council on May 15th, 2006, then posted at <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/minutes.html>.*

**Attendance:**

- 14 of the Council's 21 voting seats were present at roll call, increasing to 18 voting seats before the dinner break, then dropping back to 14 voting seats. The total number of Council representatives (members and alternates) ranged from 24 at roll call, 29 at the peak, and 19 after the dinner break. Public attendance varied from 4 to 6 people.

**Administrative Actions and Announcements:**

- The following SAC roster changes were announced:
  - Recreational Fishing seat member: Captain David Bacon (introduced himself)
  - Recreational Fishing seat alternate: Merit McCrea (reappointed)
  - Chumash Community seat alternate: Reggie Pagaling (not present)
  - Tourism seat alternate: Andrea Moe (not present)
  - California Coastal Commission alternate: Jack Ainsworth (introduced himself)
- The January 20<sup>th</sup> draft meeting notes were unanimously adopted as final.
- The Council unanimously reelected Linda Krop as Vice Chair and Eric Kett as Secretary. No other members were nominated.
- A variety of Council member announcements were made; these will be documented in the forthcoming draft meeting notes.

**Superintendent's Report:**

- Chris Mobley explained that all Sanctuary Managers are now Sanctuary Superintendents; a change made not based on promotions but rather just to create uniformity across the NMSP in position titles.
- Chris Mobley highlighted several items contained in the printed report (distributed to SAC members in advance and now available on the CINMS web site here: <http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/super.html>).
- *Management Plan Update*
  - Sarah MacWilliams reported that there are just a few more steps to cover before public release of the draft management plan and draft EIS will occur. She explained that NOAA's VADM Lautenbacher recently granted clearance on the Proposed Rule (proposed regulatory changes), but that a final clearance is also needed from the Department of Commerce and should come very soon. Sarah said that the bulk of the remaining steps now have to do with lining up the printing service, the mailing and distribution, and final transmittal letters.

- Mike Murray added that it might be possible to release the DMP/DEIS in April, but that a decision on that has not yet been made. If that were to happen, Mike said, the SAC might be asked to participate in a special roll-out meeting session to kick-off the 60-day comment period. Mike said he will keep the Council up to date via email.
- *Marine Reserves Process Update*
  - Chris Mobley explained that the marine reserves draft EIS has been submitted for the start of the NOAA clearance process, and that he hopes to see it ready for release shortly after or at the close of the draft management plan comment period.
- Chris Mobley announced that the CINMS Research Coordinator position should be open for applications very soon; possibly within a few weeks. Council members will be notified via email.
- *CINMS Budget Report*
  - Chris Mobley reviewed the trend and status of the CINMS operational budget over recent fiscal years (October through September), noting the following:
    - 2004 - \$2.3 mil.
    - 2005 - \$2.3 mil. (creating a slight loss in discretionary funds due to inflationary effects)
    - 2006 - 17% cut (causing a substantial cut non-fixed costs)
    - 2007 – Unknown but based on initial House and Senate marks for NOAA and the NMSP, CINMS is getting ready for another 10% cut. This will mean soft money, grants, partnerships, etc. will be needed to pay for non-fixed costs/programs.

#### **Updates and Comment on the SAC Chairs Annual Meeting:**

- Council members engaged in discussion about items appearing on the annual SAC Chairs' meeting (April 26-27, Washington DC). These comments were directed to Chair Dianne Meester to provide her (and Mike Murray) with suggestions, comments and questions that members felt were important to be shared at the annual Chairs meeting.
- Chris Hoeflinger highlighted the continued need for better coordination between agencies on monitoring, noting that the marine reserves present an excellent learning opportunity but the kind of coordinated monitoring identified as being needed, and funding for it, has not materialized.
- Linda Krop asked that a sentiment of support for restoring the CINMS budget be expressed at the meeting.
- Rebecca Roth highlighted the point that CINMS seems to go to great lengths with outreach to NOAA Fisheries, but does not see that being recognized by upper NOAA or reciprocated to a similar extent.
- Chris Hoeflinger also mentioned that there seems to be a lack of transparency regarding the decision-making that occurs at NMSP headquarters and NOAA.

#### **Fishing Regulations in National Marine Sanctuaries:**

- Sanctuary Superintendent Chris Mobley and Mark Helvey with NOAA Fisheries led a presentation and discussion on a draft flowchart that explains how NOAA approaches use of National Marine Sanctuary Act (NMSA) and/or Magnusen-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) authority to address fishing regulations within national marine sanctuaries. The goal was to provide an opportunity for Council members to understand more about this process and then provide comments or questions to SAC Chair Dianne

Meester that she would share at the April 26-27 annual SAC Chairs meeting in Washington DC.

- The presentation focused on the NOAA process for fisheries management when both the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) and the Magnusen-Stevens Act (MSA) may apply. The slides and the handout were provided to the Council and are available to others upon request to the Advisory Council Coordinator ([michael.murray@noaa.gov](mailto:michael.murray@noaa.gov)). Chris explained in his presentation that NOAA leadership considers both acts, and can use them either exclusively or together, and evaluates each situation on case by case basis to determine which legal authority is most appropriate to address given issues. Whether the process starts in the NMSA or MSA, in either case both laws require that the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) be involved with and play a role in the regulations being developed. There was discussion between a few Council members who were involved in the marine reserves process from 1999-2001. This discussion brought forth disagreements about: how the process occurred during the marine reserves development in 1999-2001 in contrast to how it was explained that it would happen (with regards to which agency would take the regulatory lead); the nature of comments previously made by the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) in review of advice and analysis that the SAC's Science Advisory Panel had provided to the MRWG; and why the SAC did not subsequently investigate those SSC comments as problematic. The council provided comments, suggestions and clarifications on the wiring diagram for Dianne to share at the national meeting.

#### **Public Comment (1st of two):**

- Dr. Satie Airame with the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) described the organization and announced the availability of newest edition of Coastal Connections, a PISCO newsletter. Dr. Airame distributed copies to all Council members and mentioned a variety of articles contained within the issue.
- Jim Ruche commented that the Advisory Council ought to be interested in receiving information from NOAA regarding why a decision was not made to defer completely to the Magnusen Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act for any marine reserve closures within federal waters of the Sanctuary, and reasoned that either there must have been a problem with the compatibility of goals and objectives or a failure of the analytical process. The lack of transparency in the NOAA decision-making on this is frustrating, he said, and should be something requested by the Advisory Council.

#### **Update on Acoustic Monitoring and Vessel Traffic Tracking**

- Dani Lipski, CINMS Research Assistant, presented an update on Acoustic monitoring in and around the Sanctuary. Dani introduced the topic by providing background on the Advisory Council's involvement in this issue and then summarized the work of a Sanctuary research partner, Dr. John Hildebrand of Scripps. A one page summary hand out was provided to the Council and is available on request.

#### **Working Group Reports**

- *Conservation Working Group*
  - Linda Krop reported that the group met on March 21 to learn about and review preliminary draft sections of a report on aquaculture, as well as to discuss the status of

- the marine reserves process and management plan release schedule. Linda reported that the working group would like to present a draft aquaculture report to the SAC in July and have action be considered by the Council at the September meeting. Linda also reported that the group supports the submittal of an abstract to the California and the World Ocean 2006 conference about the SAC/Working Group process they have been using for the last few years to affect marine conservation.
- *Recreational Fishing Working Group*
    - No report was provided by David Bacon or Merit McCrea given comments made during other agenda items
  - *Commercial Fishing Working Group*
    - No one present to give a report
  - *Research Activities Panel (RAP)*
    - Bob Warner reported that the RAP has not met since just before the last SAC meeting. He also mentioned that he had heard that the California Department of Fish and Game views the SAC and RAP as providing a “community oversight” function for the state MPAs in CINMS that satisfies the original request for such oversight made by the MRWG. He suggested that if this is the case then Fish and Game should come talk to the SAC about this. Bob also said that when staff complete an MPA monitoring status report, it should be distributed to all SAC working groups for review, not just the RAP.
  - *Chumash Community Working Group*
    - Mike Murray reported for Paulette Cabugos that the group had their first public meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup> at the Santa Ynez Reservation, that it was fairly well attended, and that he and Chris Mobley provided an orientation session and engaged in discussions about how the group and CINMS might work together. They plan to meet next on April 9.
  - *Sanctuary Education Team (SET)*
    - Dan Powell reported for Barbara LaCorte that the SET met publicly on March 7, and that current planning is for Barbara to take on further development of SET outreach presentations and for him to focus on revising the SET’s marine reserves matrix. Dan noted that the next SET meeting is tentatively set for April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Ventura County Museum of Art and History.
  - *Non-Consumptive Recreation Seat Outreach Report*
    - No report provided by Warren Glaser.

#### **CINMS Water Quality Program Planning**

- Donna Meyers, West Coast Regional Water Quality Coordinator for the National Marine Sanctuary Program, provided an update on efforts to incorporate the Council’s previously adopted water quality management recommendations into an emerging framework, and reviewed a process plan for developing a water quality protection program at CINMS.

#### **Public Comment (2nd of 2)**

- Carrie Bluth with the California Coastal Commission’s Ventura office greeted the Council and expressed support for and interest in the efforts to develop a water quality protection program.

## **Channel Islands Marine Protected Area Management**

- *Education*
  - Julie Bursek, CINMS Education Coordinator provided a brief overview of MPA awareness education efforts made to date by the Sanctuary, as well as those in progress or planned.
  - Efforts highlighted included “Protecting your Channel Islands” brochure, “Boating and Safety” brochure, Marine Reserves section on CINMS website, From Shore to Sea lecture series, California signage plan for launch ramp sites, non-consumptive user survey, a panel at the World Oceans Conference & electronic charts chip upgrades.
- *Range Marker Installation: Consideration of ideas developed by the Recreational Fishing Working Group*
  - Merit McCrea, Recreational Fishing seat alternate, provided a powerpoint presentation on what range markers are, how are they used, and how they may benefit Sanctuary users and enforcement. He proposed the drafting of a letter to the Sanctuary Superintendent supporting the establishment of range markers. The slides are available on request.
  - A straw poll indicated nine members were interested in continued consideration of the issue and Merit’s letter and no-one was opposition (however, several abstained from declaring support or opposition).
  - Members voiced interest in becoming more educated about range markers and other alternatives.

## **Future SAC meeting schedule and agenda topics**

- The Executive Committee will consider placing on a future agenda a draft SAC letter submitted by Chris Hoeflinger that seeks to request that NOAA’s VADM Lautenbacher instruct that the CINMS marine reserves EIS process be stopped and revised with the former Marine Reserves Working Group “sustainable fisheries” goal made an explicit part of the purpose and need for action.
- Range marker installation for MPAs within CINMS, and Merit McCrea’s associated proposed letter of support, was requested to be revisited at the next SAC meeting
- Sanctuary staff will inform the SAC via email with regard to the timing of the public release of the draft management plan and draft environmental impact statement; an April release may be possible and could result in a special SAC session.
- *Schedule for future SAC meetings & events:*
  - April 26-27, 2006: Annual SAC Chairs & Coordinators Meeting, Washington DC (Dianne Meester to attend)
  - Monday, May 15, 2006 (afternoon/evening format): SAC Meeting, Warren Hall, Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara [Note: this is a rescheduled date]
  - Friday, July 21, 2006: SAC Meeting, Ventura
  - Friday, September 22, 2006: SAC Meeting, Santa Barbara
  - Friday, November 17, 2006: SAC Meeting, Ventura